

Bampton Players

2026 AGM Notes

Venue: Riverside Hall, Bampton

Date/time: Wednesday 18th March 2026 / 7:30pm

There were 19 attendees (all members) and we received 10 apologies ahead of the meeting

Key Notes

1	<u>Introduction and Call Meeting to Order</u> • The meeting was formally opened by the Chair (Roger Erskine-Hill)
2	<u>Chairman's Report (Roger Erskine-Hill)</u> • A copy of the Chair's report is attached to these notes as an Annex • The Chair presented their report covering the activities over the past 12 months: • Listing the activities, productions and social events • Thanking those who have contributed to the success of the Players be it within the productions, organising social events or behind the scenes • The successful launch of our new dedicated website • The Chair also thanked all members of the Committee for their hard work and support
3	<u>Treasurer's Report (Xanda Vass)</u> • A copy of the Treasurer's report is attached to these notes as an Annex • Highlights include: • A surplus for the year of £1,910 • There are sufficient funds, even taking into account the need to retain an amount for kitting out the new hall and replacing/upgrading lighting, to support more members events in 2025/26 • The accounts were formally reviewed by Paul Kingdom • A donation of £500 was made to Great Ormond Street Hospital from the profits from "Napoleon's Shoe" and "Peter Pan" - technically this will be reflected in the 2026 accounts

4	<u>Election of Officers and Committee for 2025/26 (Roger Erskine-Hill)</u> • As per our constitution 1/3 of the Committee (excluding the Directors) are required to offer to step down either at or ahead of each AGM • Judith Kelland has stepped down from the Committee and Chris Beighton has been seconded in ahead of the AGM to potentially fill the gap • Garry Girling has reached the end of his term but has agreed to stay on for a second term, if approved by the AGM • Wendy is the next longest standing member but has agreed to stay on for another term, if approved by the AGM • The proposed Committee for 2026 - 27 was:- • Chair – Roger Erskine-Hill • Secretary – Sue Shaw • Treasurer – Xanda Vass • Director – Avril Saxby • Director - Sylvia Wakeham - Membership Secretary • Garry Girling – Technical Lead (proposed Avril Saxby, seconded Roger Erskine-Hill) • Chris Beighton (proposed Sue Shaw, seconded, Roger Erskine-Hill) • Wendy Boothroyd (proposed: Sue Shaw, seconded: Avril Saxby) • This was unanimously agreed by the members
5	<u>Membership Renewal (Sylvia Wakeham)</u> • The report was presented by the Secretary on Sylvia's behalf • A copy of the Membership Secretary's report is attached to these notes as an Annex • Highlights include: • We currently have 80 members of which: • 71 are adult members (9 are honorary/free memberships) • 9 are junior members •

Plans Going Forward for 2026/2027 (Roger Erskine-Hill)

Bampton Players 50th Anniversary Celebration

Bampton Players Celebration with afternoon tea
20th June at Riverside Hall

Summer lunchtime BBQ

Saturday 25th July, midday at Sherwood

Autumn Quiz night

Friday 23rd October at Riverside Hall

Mummers at the Bampton Charter Fair

Thursday 29th October

Players Autumn Play

Details and date to be confirmed

Christmas Party

Wednesday 9th December at Riverside Hall

Spring 2027 Play

"A Doll From the Past" by Sylvia Wakeham
18th - 20th March 2027 at Riverside Hall

- We are advertising for a Director for the Mummer's play this year. Taken from the March 2026 Newsletter:

The Director of our successful Mummer's play last year has decided to step away for a while for a sabbatical (we hope you have a fun gap year Judith) so we are looking for a Mummers Director for 2026. The Mummers play is, typically, only about 10 minutes long meaning that the rehearsal requirements are much less than for our other productions.

In recent years our Bampton Town Charter Day street theatre has taken the form of a traditional Mummers play, but the new Director would have some freedom to either make use of our extensive back catalogue of scripts or commission or write something new. There is also the option of performing a new Mummers style play, which has been developed by Peter with the support of Wendy. The only restriction is that whatever is chosen it would still need to fit in with the general concept.

If you would like to put your name forward to direct please submit an "Expression of Interest" for consideration by the Committee to: sue.shaw.wx@gmail.com. At this stage there is no need to have a fully formed idea, simply a paragraph about yourself, noting any experience you may have and giving an indication of why you'd like to do it. Please note that previous experience as a Director is NOT essential.

7	<u>Matters Arising (All)</u> • None were raised ahead of the meeting
8	<u>AOB</u> <u>Outdoor Venue and Stage</u> • Appreciation was given to Hugh and Avril for providing the venue and also for the work going into the new outdoor stage - it is being designed so the blocks will be light enough for a single person to move <u>Peter Pan Songs</u> • All the original songs are now available on our Bampton Players You Tube Channel <u>Commemoration of 50 years since the death of Agatha Christie</u> • Suggested we put on a showing of the video of one of our Christie plays • Quality would need to be checked • This will be discussed at our next Committee Meeting <u>Support of House Light Improvements at Riverside Hall</u> • Riverside Hall is upgrading its house lights and will improve the ceiling at the same time • The Players were asked if they would like to contribute to the cost • Riverside Hall were asked to provide an estimate of the costs which would be considered at the next Committee Meeting <u>Footlights</u> • A query was raised as to whether we could have footlights in order to improve the lighting of the actors faces • This is not feasible with a non-fixed stage
	Meeting closed at 7:39pm

Annex

Chairman's Report 2025 - 2026

Good evening. Welcome to you all and thank you for making the time to be here.

Since our last AGM, the Players have been more than a little busy, as most of you will know first hand.

In May we staged the world premiere of Sylvia's play, the Mysterious Mr M, which she also directed. Sarah had even made a scarily like model of Tim to leer at the world from the crockery cupboard (sorry – sideboard). The play was a great success and enjoyed not only by the audiences but by our NODA rep, who put the script forward for an award.

Then, at the end of August, after a summer break, our annual BBQ was held at Sherwood. It was good fun as always, despite the very un-summerlike downpour. We are grateful yet again to Hugh and Avril, not only for hosting this, but for then setting and hosting our annual Players quiz night here in the Riverside, less than a month later.

In mid October, we staged a supper theatre three nights in a row, featuring the comedy play Napoleon's Shoe. Avril directed this and it was highly successful, with the Toucan doing us proud on the catering front.

At the end of the month it was Bampton Fair and time for the Mummers to strut their stuff again. Judith did a brilliant job of directing this and the actors performances were so well received that they appeared on the front page of the Tiverton Gazette! The Mummers performed again for the residents of Barnhay and Castle Grove and then once more inside the church as part of the Countdown to Christmas event.

December saw our annual Christmas Party here in the Riverside, again catered for by the Toucan, with Rick the Entertainer doing what his name implies, and there was even a bit of Dad dancing on display...

Then of course came the triumph of Peter Pan, a hugely ambitious production which, after months of preparation, rehearsals, song writing, music composition, costume-making , prop construction and stage design, not to mention the full sized crocodile, we ran for five performances for the first time, each one a sell-out. As a result we were able to make a £500 donation to Great Ormond Street from the extra profits. The amount of work put into this by everyone, especially of course by Avril and Hugh, was prodigious, but it all worked out magnificently.

And finally, only last Wednesday evening, the Players held a well-attended and highly enjoyable play reading of Sheila's Island at Sherwood.

Another milestone of note during the year for the Players has been the creation of our own dedicated website, where among other things photos from past productions and details of forthcoming events can all be viewed.

Also during the year we have had to acknowledge that the outdoor stage at Sherwood has proved too heavy and cumbersome to move about, so a new stage there is being constructed, although it will not be ready in time for any outdoor productions this year.

In other news, details of plans and progress for Bampton's new hall to one day replace the Riverside are at the moment fairly scant, but we will keep everyone updated when we know more. At their request, we have given the town council a comprehensive list of all the Players requirements for any new hall.

There are too many people to thank personally for everything that has happened this last year, but as well as all the actors, stage crew, directors and producers, allow me please to mention Humph's management of the sound systems, Garry and Cath for all the lighting arrangements, Ali and Kathy for their amazing costume work, Penelope and Sarah for the props, Sarah's crocodile among them, and of course Hugh for the music, stage design, construction and overall stage management.

Finally, while the make up of your committee for the next 12 months is discussed later in the agenda, I would like to thank my fellow committee members profusely for all their support and hard work on your behalf throughout this last year.

Thank you.

Treasurers Report 2025

Again, a positive year for the Players with a surplus of £1,910. All three productions made surpluses: Alice in Wonderland £1,413, The Mysterious Mr M £1,737 and Napoleon's Shoe £132.

The main reason for profits all around was the increase of ticket prices to £10. Whilst we would have liked to leave prices as they were the increase made it easier and faster for tickets to be sold, particularly by the ever helpful Fresh staff without the constant requests for "more pound coins"!

As ever we intend to break even but to ensure reserve funds are held to cover all eventualities! Much of our lighting equipment is fairly old and continually needs replacing or upgrading. This has become more important as the prospect of a New Hall is becoming a reality. We as yet have no idea just what we might be required to provide in order to continue our indoor performances. However, to avoid holding funds unnecessarily we will be holding more Member events in 2025/6.

The accounts have been examined by retired accountant Paul Kingdom and his report to the Trustees states that he had no concerns about anything in the accounts and that they have been prepared in accordance with the relevant section of the Charities Act. We are very grateful to Paul for spending his time going over the accounts.

Questions?

I have several copies of the Summary of the accounts 2025 if anyone wants one, the Trustees Annual Report and Statement of Financial activities which are to be filed with the Charity Commission and Pauls report to the Trustees if anyone would like to look at them.

Membership Report 2025 - 2026

There are 71 adult members and 9 Junior members. A few members did not wish to renew their membership either through ill health or moving away from the area.

I'm pleased to report that this year our overall number has increased and we are delighted to have welcomed, in no particular order(!):

Sarah and Michael Crothers, Nic Chopin and Paul Howes, Becky Cook, Paul and Wendy Kingdom and Jo Beighton.

All have become involved as soon as joining; Sarah having expressed a vague interest in helping, suddenly found herself performing on stage in the Panto. Nic and Paul were tremendous help setting up stages. Michael and Wendy gallantly formed part of team Crocodile as did Jo who

also took a leading role behind the bar on several occasions! Work commitments have prevented Becky from becoming as involved as she would have liked this year.

Membership fees remain at £10 for adults again this year, with no fees for young members. So far, 57 members have paid, plus we have 4 honorary and 5 free members.

Gentle nudges have been sent to the few unpaid members.

Please encourage any friends you think might be interested in joining us to look at the website, to email us or to chat to any of the Committee if they would like more information.